# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4654
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
VISIT OF US DELEGATION
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY;SUDHA YADAV

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a delegation of US Congress visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the issues discussed with the delegation; and

(d) the extent to which this visit is likely to strengthen the ties between the two countries?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. A four-member delegation of the U.S. Congress visited India from February 17-21, 2001. The main purpose of the visit was to express solidarity with India in the aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake.

(c) The delegation had meetings with Chief Minister of Gujarat as well as senior officials of the State Government dealing with relief and rehabilitation in Gujarat. They also called on the Prime Minister in New Delhi during which they assured him of the continued bi-partisan support for close Indo-U.S. relations. They also suggested that the federal emergency response system prevailing in the United States to deal with natural disasters could be of interest to India.

(d) The visit was part of continuing interactions at all levels of government between India and the United States which contribute to strengthening the ties between the two countries.